

Message Text

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ACTION EB-08

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NSAE-00 NSC-05 OMB-01 PM-05 USIA-15 OES-07 SP-02

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INFO AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

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SUBJECT: SWEDEN'S ENERGY COMMISSION PRESENTS RECOMMENDATIONS

1. THE SWEDISH ENERGY COMMISSION'S MAIN REPORT HAS BEEN SUBMITTED TO THE PARLIAMENT. THE 775 PAGE DOCUMENT WAS PRESENTED AT A PRESS CONFERENCE CALLED BY COMMISSION CHAIRMAN OVE RAINER ON MARCH 29 AND RECEIVED WIDE COVERAGE BY THE NEWS MEDIA. SOME OF THE PRINCIPAL RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE COMMISSION'S REPORT ARE:

(A) NUCLEAR ENERGY. NO DECOMMISSIONING OF NUCLEAR POWER PLANTS SHOULD TAKE PLACE NOW. THE CONSTRUCTION OF NUCLEAR PLANTS ALREADY BEGUN SHOULD BE COMPLETED. A FINAL DECISION ON THE TOTAL NUMBER OF SWEDISH NUCLEAR PLANTS CANNOT BE MADE FOR ABOUT 10 YEARS. THE GENERATION OF HEAT AND ELECTRICITY BY NUCLEAR POWER PLANTS FOR DISTRICT HEATING PURPOSES SHOULD BE POSSIBLE AND A STUDY OF FORSMARK 3 (REACTOR 11) MAY GIVE POSITIVE RESULTS.

THE RINGHALS 3 (REACTOR 7) CAN MEET THE REQUIREMENTS OF

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THE CONDITIONS ACTM SWEDEN SHOULD NOT DEVELOP ENRICHMENT OR REPROCESSING PLANTS. A REPOSITORY FOR INTERMEDIATE STORAGE OF SPENT NUCLEAR FUEL SHOULD BE BUILT. THE STORAGE OF HIGHLY RADIOACTIVE WASTES CAN BE SOLVED A REVIEW OF SWEDEN'S CAPABILITIES AND NUCLEAR POWER TECHNOLOGY IS NEEDED. CONTINUOUS EXPLORATION OF URANIUM SOURCES IN SWEDEN SHOULD BE MAINTAINED.

(B) CONSERVATION. SOCIETY MUST SAVE ENERGY. PRIVATE AUTOMOBILES SHOULD BE REDUCED IN NUMBER THROUGH HIGHER TAXES AND FEES. PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION SHOULD RECEIVE MORE FINANCIAL SUPPORT. BUILDING STANDARDS OUGHT TO BE RAISED AND MORE ATTRACTIVE LOANS SHOULD BE AVAILABLE FOR INSULATION OF OLD HOUSES. HOUSEHOLD APPLIANCES SHOULD BE ENERGY RATED. CARPOOLING SHOULD BE ENCOURAGED. ELECTRIC TROLLEY BUSES SHOULD BE REINSTITUTED.

(C) ALTERNATIVE ENERGY SOURCES. WIND POWER GENERATORS SHOULD BE TESTED IN SEVERAL PLACES IN THE COUNTRY. RESEARCH ON SOLAR ENERGY SHOULD INCREASE, ESPECIALLY ON IMPROVED STORAGE OF SOLAR HEAT. PEAT CAN REPLACE OIL USED IN INDUSTRIAL BOILERS AND CENTRAL HOT WATER HEATERS. ENERGY FORESTS SHOULD BE DEVELOPED.

(D) OIL DEPENDENCE. SWEDEN SHOULD: STRIVE TO REDUCE OIL DEPENDENCE, SEEK LONG-TERM OIL CONTRACTS WITH OIL-PRODUCING COUNTRIES, RETAIN DOMESTIC REFINERIES, SWITCH DOMESTIC FREIGHT FROM ROADS TO TRAINS AND BOATS, CONTINUE STORAGE OF OIL IN UNDERGROUND ROCK CHAMBERS, AND INTRODUCE A LOWEST FIXED OIL PRICE.

2. COMMENT: PRIME MINISTER FALLDIN PROMPTLY CRITICIZED THE COMMISSION'S REPORT, STATING THAT IT WAS "DIFFICULT TO GET A GRASP ON THE PROPOSAL." HE EXPRESSED DOUBT THAT THE REPRESENTATIVES OF THE LIBERAL, MODERATE AND SOCIAL DEMOCRATIC PARTIES, WHO MADE UP THE COMMISSION'S

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MAJORITY, WILL GET PUBLIC OPINION TO SUPPORT MANY OF THE COMMISSION'S RECOMMENDATIONS. FALLDIN SAID THE SEPARATE REPORT ON NUCLEAR SAFETY, DUE IN JUNE, REMAINS THE MOST IMPORTANT PART OF THE COMMISSION'S WORK. HE WAS ALSO CRITICAL OF THE FACT THAT THE COMMISSION DID NOT TAKE A POSITION ON THE NUMBER OF NUCLEAR POWER PLANTS THAT SWEDEN SHOULD HAVE. POLITICAL PARTY MEMBERS WITH WHOM WE HAVE SPOKEN ADMIT THAT THE COMMISSION'S REPORT MAY BE INTERPRETED TO FIT WHATEVER VIEW THE READER MAY HAVE. IN ACCORDANCE WITH SWEDISH PRACTICE, THE REPORT HAS BEEN SUBMITTED TO VARIOUS AGENCIES AND INDIVIDUALS FOR REVIEW, A PROCESS THAT WILL TAKE FIVE MONTHS. AFTER SEPTEMBER 1, THE COALITION GOVERNMENT WILL BEGIN TO WORK ON COMPREHENSIVE ENERGY POLICY LEGISLATION TO PRESENT TO THE PARLIAMENT PROBABLY JUST BEFORE CHRISTMAS THIS YEAR. KENNEDY-MINOTT

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